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HISTORY
OF THE
Y. M. C. A. WAR WORK
OF THE
WASHINGTON DISTRICT



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1919
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*Young men Christian associations, Washington,
War work council*

A HISTORY OF THE WORK IN THE
WASHINGTON, D. C., DISTRICT.
WAR WORK COUNCIL



FROM
JULY 1ST, 1917,
TO
JULY 1ST, 1919.



GEORGE W. HUNTER
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PART I.—*General Organization of the District.*

PART II.—*A History of the War Work in the Camps and Cantonments.*

PART III.—*Headquarters Departmental Reports.*

It is hoped that this outline, inadequate and perhaps inaccurate as it is, will be of some permanent value as a beginning on which to superimpose data which will make a full report of the work of the Washington District.

I wish to make acknowledgment to William Knowles Cooper, George T. Hastings, Ralph K. Hickok and D. E. Yarnell, as well as all other members of the War Work staff, for their splendid co-operation in preparing this; without their aid the task would have been well nigh hopeless. To all who have helped, especially the faithful and efficient stenographic force of the headquarters staff, my sincere thanks are due.

GEORGE W. HUNTER.

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A History of the Work in the Washington, D. C., District. War Work Council.

PART I.

General Organization of the District.

The Washington District is unique in that it has comprised units from every branch of the service—Navy, Marine Corps and Army—and in turn practically every department of the army organization has been served, including forts, rifle ranges, training camps and one large cantonment. These have held infantry, artillery, cavalry, signal corps, quartermaster corps, engineers, and various specialized units, as the remount troops, hospital corps men, and men of gas and flame, and camouflage divisions. In addition to these, guard units have been served which have been both transient and more or less permanent, the latter being the troops guarding the public buildings in and about Washington. Finally, the wounded and convalescent soldiers, sailors, and marines have been served in the Walter Reed, Saint Elizabeth, and the Naval Hospitals, and the camp and cantonment hospitals. When demobilization began, secretaries went out with men of their camps on troop trains carrying supplies of all kinds. Especial mention might be made of the three weeks' trip of L. A. Black with the aero squadron during the Fifth Victory Loan Campaign. On this trip Mr. Black was practically given charge of arrangements for the entertainment of the men in the cities they visited.

At the beginning of the first period of the war, the war work naturally fell under the jurisdiction of the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A., but at the taking over of the work by the War Work Council on July 1, 1917, a rapid expansion took place.

Up to this time the city Association had splendidly undertaken to finance and to plan for all the war work in the district, eleven secretaries having been maintained for varying periods of time.

Early in the summer of 1917 William Knowles Cooper, general secretary, was given jurisdiction over the district as district general secretary. A. L. Smith, who had been a Y. M. C. A. secretary at Fort Myer—and who at this time was chaplain of

the Third District of Columbia Infantry—became associate district general secretary in charge of the construction work of the district. He, C. H. West, and a little later Charles N. Ramsey, and on January 11 S. T. Allen, business secretary, were added to the staff at headquarters. As the work grew, Mr. Ramsey became personnel secretary for the district.

By the end of December, 1917, the list of units being operated by the War Work Council staff was as follows:

Administration Office, 1736 G Street, with the following secretaries:

Wm. K. Cooper, Secretary in charge of District.

Arthur L. Smith, Secretary in charge of Construction.

C. N. Ramsey, Secretary in charge of Personnel.

C. H. West, Secretary in charge of Business.

Richard Bone, Secretary in charge of Automobiles.

Pennsylvania Avenue Building—Three secretaries.

Fort Myer—Five secretaries.

Quantico—Seven secretaries.

American University Park—Five secretaries.

Camp Meigs—Five secretaries.

Belvoir—Two secretaries.

Washington Barracks—Four secretaries.

St. Asaph—One secretary.

Fort Washington—One secretary.

Potomac Park—One secretary.

Walter Reed Hospital—One secretary.

On January 1, 1918, Dr. D. E. Yarnell joined in the work as associate district secretary and in the middle of the same month Dr. Paul R. Hickok was added to the staff as religious work director—Dr. Hickok serving until August 1, 1918, when he was succeeded by his brother, Prof. Ralph K. Hickok, who for several months had been camp religious work director at Camp Humphreys. On July 1, 1918, G. W. Irwin became associate district secretary, but returned to his home association in the early fall. July 29 Dr. George W. Hunter came into the work as district educational director, continuing in this position until June 7, 1919, when G. T. Hastings took up the work. In January, 1918, Mr. West was forced to go back into business life. His place was

taken by S. T. Allen, who subsequently was called to the colors. On September 15, 1918, S. B. Burchard, who had had a year's experience in France, succeeded Mr. Allen as business secretary. R. S. Truair filled this position subsequent to Mr. Burchard's departure. The first construction secretary of the Washington district was Charles W. Bier; he was followed by Fred E. Winter, who in turn was succeeded by Charles T. Mott. For a brief period in January, 1919, Elmer E. Heidt acted as recreational director of the district.

As the volume of war work grew in the district a total of one hundred and sixty-five secretaries serving one hundred and twenty-five thousand men was found just prior to the armistice signing on November 11, 1918. All told, three hundred and twenty-seven secretaries have served at one time or another in the district and the following points have been served during the war period. (The points are named approximately in the order of opening service):

Fort Myer:

St. Asaph,
Edsall Rifle Range,
Post Exchange,
Operated as outposts.

Quantico.—Main building and Overseas building:

Rifle Range,
Indian Head,
Chateau Thierry,
Tenth Regiment,
Operated as outposts.

Belvoir.—Afterwards as part of Camp Humphreys.

American University.—Afterwards Camp Leach.

East Potomac Park:

Congress Heights Rifle Range,
operated as outpost.

Camp Ordway.—Later Camp Meigs.

Walter Reed Hospital.

Washington Barracks:

Forts Washington and Hunt
(first operated as a single post, later as an outpost of Washington Barracks).

Fort Foote, operated as outpost.

Eagle Hut.—(Pennsylvania Avenue Hut).

Camp Humphreys:

ABC building,
DEF building,
NOP building,
KLM building,
GHJ building,
KK building,
Administration building,
Service Battalion building,
BB building,
Officers' building,
Quartermaster's building,
Accotink,
Occoquan,
Rifle Range, Lorton, Va.,
Operated as outposts.

Liberty Hut.

Bliss Electrical School.

Maryland State College.

Howard University.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Bolling Field Air Station.

Anacostia Naval Air Station.

Machodoc Point Proving Ground.

Front Royal Remount Station.

Forty-three points at which work has been established at one time or another during the war period.

The following members of the district staff were transferred to overseas service:

George W. Atkinson.
E. E. Briggs.
J. Arthur Edwards.
C. Arthur Ford.
Lawrence L. Lee.

W. C. Protsman.
Charles H. West.
Arthur L. Smith.
F. W. Smith.

In addition to these, some thirty-three men and sixty-six women from Washington who were not connected with the War Work Council of the district, were sent overseas by the Y. M. C. A.

The following members of the district staff entered the service of the government in various capacities:

William Hubbard Alderson.
Sinclair T. Allen.
Donald B. Atwell.
Kenneth B. Canfield.
H. B. Cooper.
Earl Cranston.
M. Casson.

A. Bruce Clark. (Mr. Clark secured commission of lieutenant. Was discharged from the service early in 1919 and shortly thereafter died of influenza.)

Theo. C. Crippen.
C. E. Kraft.
Harry G. Green.
John F. Long.
E. R. Miller.
Kercheval Smith.
Lester Storm.
William Stillwell.
F. W. Helfer.
Harold Lawton.
E. E. Morgan.
Clinton Oblinger.

The work in the district always has been ably assisted by the loyal co-operation of a group of splendid women, who composed a very strong arm of the service that the Association was permitted to render. It would not be possible to mention all those who have co-operated, but the very great volume of work performed by Mrs. William Black, wife of General Black, Mrs. J. L. Edwards, Mrs. F. S. Hight, Mrs. Joseph M. Stoddard, Mrs. E. S. Lawrence, Mrs. R. E. Strawbridge, and Miss Ann Darlington, makes their names stand out prominently. Many other women performed notable service, some as "Camp Mothers," as Miss Mary Gwynn, at Fort Myer, Mrs. Howells, heading up a group of wonderful women from Alexandria, Mrs.

William Marsh, and others. Two others gave of their time and strength at headquarters—Mrs. Henry Minor and Mrs. Clara I. Naughtright—to them belongs much of the credit for the smooth running of the speakers' bureau of the educational department.

The history of the district, however, was not without its tinge of tragedy. The influenza epidemic in the late fall touched the "Y" heavily. Many secretaries were ill, some in hospitals and some at home. The only death was that of Lieutenant Clark, who long since had left the organization. Mention should be made, however, of the splendid service of some of the secretaries during the time of trial. Two—Richard Bone and George Minot—gave their services as automobile ambulance drivers for several weeks from 12 midnight until 9 a. m., taking patients from their stricken homes to the emergency hospitals. Many of the secretaries served the men quarantined in the barracks during this trying time, and helped make this difficult period more livable. In this connection the names of M. F. Andrew at Meigs, E. S. Ralston at Humphreys, and L. W. Kinzly at Quantico deserve especial mention.

Owing to the place filled by Washington in the eyes of the nation, the Y. M. C. A. naturally came into the public eye here almost more than anywhere else in the United States. Mr. Cooper, because of his prominence as a well-beloved citizen, was looked to by the citizens' committees to take care of visiting organizations. The great Liberty Hut with its fourteen hundred beds was a natural place to house such visiting organizations as Garde Republicaine Band, the Foreign Legion, the Belgian soldiers and other groups appearing for the various Liberty Loans. It also housed many groups of soldiers visiting Washington unofficially, for example, Anzacs returning via Norfolk and the Panama Canal to their homes in Australia and New Zealand.

The great auditorium at Liberty Hut also lent itself for the staging of many public functions and the great red triangle over the stage emblazoned itself as an emblem of real patriotic service as Washingtonians and war workers met on many different occasions to hear noted speakers pleading for such great causes as the United War Work drives and the Liberty Loans.

The auditorium at Liberty Hut served prominently for the Y. M. C. A. on other great occasions—once at its dedication on April 26, 1918, when ex-ambassador Gerard gave the speech of dedication, and more recently on May 16, 1919, when Secretary of War Newton T. Baker paid a splendid tribute to the work of the Y. M. C. A. in an oration at the presentation of the Croix de Guerre by General L. Collardet to three overseas secretaries, De Roy R. Fonville, Wm. R. Farmer, and Ernest C. Butler.

Another interesting event was the tour through the camps of the district by the French Military Band—Garde Republicaine. This wonderful organization led by Captain Pares gave a series of masterly concerts at Humphreys, Quantico, Fort Myer, and other points in the district. The most interesting and profitable concert was given in the Belasco Theater on July 2, 1918, where about \$1,700 was made available for the work of the Foyer du Soldat.

Still another notable occasion in the annals of the War Work Council was the week preceding the War Work campaign when Madame Schumann Heink devotedly gave her services to the Y. M. C. A. for the War Work drive. She sang in two or three concerts every day during that week, giving magnificent service and winning friends both for herself and the United War Work campaign. Almost immediately following the tour of Madame Schumann Heink, Christine Miller gave a week of service to the camps of the district.

With such a wealth of material at its very doors, the Y. M. C. A. in the Washington camps had as talent some of the most noted speakers in the country. Ex-President Taft, Vice-President Marshall, Secretary Daniels, Secretary Baker, and many other noted men and women have given their services freely and without price for the men in the service. Mrs. Newton T. Baker on many occasions generously has sung for the men. Among the most interesting of these was one at the outdoor amphitheater at Camp Humphreys, where over twelve thousand men were massed on the hillside to hear her wonderful voice.

One of the brightest spots in the history of the district was the United War Work parade, which took place on the most

auspicious day of all days—November 11, 1918. All Washington was in the first burst of enthusiasm over the armistice declaration. A holiday was declared, and under cloudless skies, with airplanes whirring overhead and guns booming from the posts around the city, the united organizations passed in review before the President. The parade was interspersed with numerous floats—each organization having provided one. That of the Y. M. C. A. represented a hut with a piano inside. Here the famous Humphrey quartette, led by John Reynolds, sang, the spectators along the route joining in the choruses of the camp songs. This parade far eclipsed all subsequent parades in enthusiasm—including the one in which the “Y” took part on February 27, 1919, to welcome the President and the returning soldiers back from France.

Perhaps no feature of the work in the Washington District was quite so valuable to the secretaries in a purely educational and recreational way as the weekly conferences established by Mr. Cooper. First, purely as business meetings they were held Wednesday mornings at various city churches, then in the Sir George Williams room of the city Y. M. C. A., and as that was outgrown, in one of the class rooms. Again, in the summer of 1918, the meetings were held in the churches. The day of meetings was changed in the fall to Monday and again held in the Y. M. C. A. The morning we met at the Bliss Electrical School, with the inspection of their shops and the lunch served us by the students, the meeting at Belvoir, when Kelly Harriss arranged a boat ride and a dinner in one of the mess halls, and the later picnic at Belvoir, are days that stand out as especially pleasant. One of the most delightful features of the conference day always was the luncheon served by the wives, mothers, and sweethearts of the men in the service of the “Y” under the direction of a committee of which Mrs. Cooper was chairman and Mrs. Yarnell treasurer. This meeting, besides giving the men an opportunity to meet “an honest to God woman” once more and to enjoy a real home-cooked lunch, served to bring the party together to hear some really worth-while message, often from some man or woman of note who might be in the district.

The conferences were opened at 10 a. m., thus giving opportunity for the secretaries in the outlying camps to get in. The conference always began with a devotional service. During the time Dr. Paul R. Hickok was religious-work secretary of the district he brought a message of spiritual help each morning. In more recent months various members of the staff took charge of the exercises. Often the messages were farewell ones from men leaving the service and gave something of their experiences and vision in the work. Most of the conference time was devoted to reports from the headquarters staff and from the camp secretaries. Mr. Cooper, as a presiding officer, proved a genius and made many a blue Monday seem rosy colored to the harassed and weary secretary. It was he who saw the humor in every report called for by New York and it was his quick mind which placed the essentials of the discussion before the men in a way that they did not soon forget. Frequently his ready wit coined psychological catch words which made the trained psychologists wonder why they had not thought of them before—and as for the ministers of the gospel, their message had to go over or else their headquarters chief would quietly gather up the scattered thirdlies and fourthlies into a vital message that stuck in the minds of all who heard it. Surely those morning conferences will stand out in the minds of all of us as days when we worked under a real leader. Then came the introduction of new secretaries, with the statements of where they came from, their denominations, and reasons for entering the work. As the work began to decrease there were more often farewells to men leaving than greetings to men coming. After the luncheon there was another series of treats. Mr. Cooper and the headquarters staff, working together, usually succeeded in getting in someone really worth while to address the meeting. Perhaps it was someone who had done a big job in connection with the work of one of the welfare organizations; such a speaker was Miss Mabel Boardman, of the American Red Cross; "Doc" Clifford, the "Y" man who endeared himself to the Marine Corps for all time through his rescue of General Catlin and his wholehearted service during the fiery ordeal of Belleau Wood; or Harry W. Blair, who was first

to aid the men of the heroic Lost Battalion that day in the Argonne Forest. Or it might be men like Harry Holmes or Gypsy Smith or our beloved "Rhody" with a story of what had been done with our men overseas. Conditions in Russia were graphically pictured by Harry Long and E. T. Colton—the latter one of the strongest men the "Y" sent overseas. William Jessop took us into the dust and heat of Egypt and Palestine, showing us the "Y" men working with the British Army. Some of the strongest preachers in Washington addressed us at various times—Bishop McDowell, Dr. Charles Wood, Dr. James L. Gordon, and others—while Dr. George P. Eckman, Dr. Robert Watson and others brought messages from outside the city.

Two or three interesting and instructive series of lectures were arranged—one a series of five addresses by Prof. L. D. Bliss on the causes of the war, another series of informal talks on France and French ideals was given by Lieutenant J. Norton Cru, who before the war was instructor in French at Williams College, and a third series was given by various men high in the government service who attempted to show directly or indirectly the part played by the various departments in the business of government. Some of the speakers in this series were Fred C. Butler, Director of Americanization, Department of the Interior, James L. Wilmeth, of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Dr. E. F. Phillips, of the Department of Agriculture. Among the most interesting speakers were Mrs. Barnett, wife of General George Barnett, head of the Marine Corps, who gave a graphic account of her experiences in the Chateau Thierry region, and Brigadier General E. L. Munson, who told of the aims of the morale division of the Army. Miss Katherine B. Davis talked at one conference on the work of the Division of Social Hygiene and presented the new film "The End of the Road" for constructive criticism.

The affairs of the day were not forgotten at these conferences. The League of Nations and its meaning were ably discussed by Dr. Theodore Marburg, ex-Ambassador to Belgium, and by the Hon. Charles W. Needham, of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Poland and the place under the sun of some of the

smaller new nations were presented by James C. White, director of the Associated Polish Press, and others. And last, but not least, the governmental agencies at work to rehabilitate and care for the returning soldier were given by Dr. E. B. Kidner, the Canadian expert in vocational retraining, who represented the Federal Board for Vocational Education, our own Mr. Ramsey for the War Risk Insurance, and Dr. Shepherd L. Franz, scientific director of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, who spoke on reconstruction work with shell-shocked and paralyzed soldiers.

After the conferences adjourned there were occasionally departmental conferences to discuss the work being done and to plan for the weeks to come, Mr. Cooper very often meeting at this time with the camp executives. It was largely through these conferences that the work developed from that of a group of camps doing independent work to a unified district work with large plans and programs covering all the centers. The combination of good fellowship, inspiring addresses, good lunches, and the touch with the work of the whole district did much to keep the work in the district up to a high standard and the work of the individual secretaries to the maximum efficiency.

PART II.

History of the War Work in the Camps and Cantonments, Arranged in the Order in Which Work was Opened by the Washington War Work Council.

FORT MYER.—As a permanent army post, Fort Myer played an important part in the pre-war activities of this district. Here was located one of the first army Y. M. C. A. buildings, and here, under the watchful eye of the officers of the general staff, the early work of the Y. M. C. A. must have been observed with much interest. There seems to be no doubt but that, as a result of the experiment tried long before the war started, the War Department reached conclusions which afterwards were to bear fruition in their attitude toward the Y. M. C. A. in the army camps in this country and abroad.

For many years prior to the war, the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. had maintained secretary Arthur L. Smith at the fort with

his headquarters at the Post Exchange building. With the outbreak of hostilities, a temporary building was constructed and later enlarged. This building was one of the first War Work Council "Y" buildings to function in the United States.

The Second Reserve Officers' Training Camp, with an attendance of 1,400 men and 200 foreign officer-teachers, was in full activity in the fall of 1917. Naturally, then, at this point there was much of importance to be done by the "Y" and a strong program was needed. At a very early stage work developed at St. Asaph driving park near Alexandria as an outpost of Fort Myer. This was a temporary remount station, the camp being under canvas. The work there was headed at first by A. Bruce Clark, who later died of influenza. Late in November the camp was discontinued on account of the cold weather. Fort Myer also established an outpost at the Edsall target range. Here Mr. Whitwell Beatson not only assembled, with the help of the men on the spot, the temporary Pennsylvania Avenue building sent to this point, but also installed a small electric lighting generator in order to run moving pictures in a near-by natural amphitheater for the benefit of the men on the range. The Fort Myer program was also carried on at the Post Exchange building, a strategic point where much service was rendered. In the spring of 1918 another point was opened to serve the men of the 49th Engineers. George E. Day has been in charge of the work since March 16, 1918, and has rendered unusually efficient service. The full program of the Y. M. C. A. was put over here in spite of a rather unusual clientele, which, toward the end of the war, consisted entirely of regular cavalry troops. This camp contained probably as many different types of work as any around Washington, having held, besides the Reserve Officers' Training Camp, detachments of artillery, regular infantry, cavalry, and engineers. The men from the Fort Myer Radio Station and a small group of orderlies from the War College have also been given service.

The history of this point would not be complete without mentioning the rather unique service rendered by Mr. Day as he hiked with a squadron of the 11th Cavalry from Fort Myer to New York and return. This trip lasted from April 17 to May

16, 1919, and was taken as an adjunct to the victory loan drive. Not only did Mr. Day give out the usual "Y" material, but he arranged with local Y. M. C. A.'s en route to serve the men in every possible manner. This service was rendered at the request of the officers in command.

QUANTICO.—With the slogan of "First to Fight," the Marines established themselves at Quantico, Virginia, early in May, 1917. By June, a thousand men were in camp, and quarters for sixty-five hundred men were established within a few weeks after this. Ground was broken June 27, 1917, for the War Work Council building, which was completed within two months after this date. As early as the time of the dedication on August 24 it was already inadequate for the needs of the camp. A bronze tablet in the building reads as follows:

"This building was presented to United States Marine Corps August 23, 1917, by friends of New Britain, Connecticut, Y. M. C. A., who also supply the following Y. M. C. A. secretaries from New Britain to serve here:

C. H. Barnes,

W. S. Slater

F. N. Schade

J. G. Gripp

L. E. Andrews"

Twelve thousand five hundred dollars were subscribed for this purpose. The interior fittings of this hut were bought with five hundred and fifty dollars appropriated by the Colonial Dames of Washington, D. C.

Quantico was destined to become one of the most important points in the district. Early in the fall Maurice F. Childs came into service as educational director of the camp and as such established a strong program of French for men going overseas. He later was appointed camp director, but was transferred to Camp Merritt in January, 1918. William H. Crown succeeded him, continuing in service until November 20, 1918. At this time Dr. W. L. Darby was transferred from Camp Humphreys to take charge of the work and has proven to be a wonderfully able leader. Under his guidance the friendliness between the officers and men of the marine corps and the secretaries has grown to a wonderful extent. The splendid Fifth and Sixth Regiments,

which distinguished themselves at Belleau Woods, were trained here, and Quantico has become the synonym of efficient and splendid service. A second building at Quantico, which has been styled the Overseas building, was dedicated in the summer of 1918, the dedicatory address being delivered by Hon. Huston Thompson of the Department of Justice. Several outposts were served at different times during the war. Indian Head, with which communication was maintained by launch, a great industrial plant and proving grounds, was served while a marine regiment was encamped there. Secretaries were also on duty at the rifle range, at another outlying camp where the Tenth Regiment was established, and still another point was served at the Sappers' and Miners' camp at "Chateau Thierry," so-called, up on the hill.

One significant event at Quantico was the coming in the summer of 1918 of Prof. Edward Mack, D. D., of the faculty of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. Dr. Mack, by his fine personality and unique powers of teaching, built up a program of Bible study which reached throughout the barracks and brought many a Marine to a renewed respect for "his mother's Bible." In connection with this work must be mentioned a quiet, modest man, L. W. Kinzly, who came into the work a little later. He has been very near and dear to many boys in the camp and has done more than any one man to give daily Bible study a prominent place in Quantico.

Just across from the main "Y" hut was erected early in the history of the camp a large gymnasium. Here all the indoor athletics of the camp centered. And here, too, thanks to the co-operation between the chaplain and the educational department of the "Y," have been held many important meetings. A series of lectures on good citizenship, "After Victory—What?" South America, geography, and other general lectures have been given here to audiences ranging from one thousand to thirty-five hundred.

During the past year a young university has been established at Quantico, and all types of educational work, heading men for promotion or toward more efficient home-coming, has been in progress. This work, begun by Mr. Childs, was carried on

splendidly by A. H. Myers, afterwards educational secretary of the New York district, and then later by William F. George. But the real significance of the Quantico educational program lies in the fact that all members of the staff have co-operated to put it over.

Especial emphasis has been placed on unselfish service since the return of the men from overseas. And this has been found, as at Walter Reed, the surest way to stop criticism. No place exists where the "Y" is held in higher favor by both officers and men—this has been proven in these later days of our service—for the Post Commandant hearing that the "Y" was hard pressed for room to do efficient work, turned over in May, 1919, an officers' barracks to be used as a camp headquarters building. This is only one of many instances which show the splendid spirit of co-operation existing between the marine corps and the Y. M. C. A.

BELVOIR.—For some years the government has owned a tract of wooded land near Mt. Vernon. Early in the war more land alongside was purchased. This was at Belvoir, a part of the original Fairfax estate—a region full of historical memories. Here was located the William Fairfax house, long since burned and destroyed except for its well-built foundation. Here Washington and his friends used to gather after their fox-hunting expeditions, and here in this wonderful growth of pine was to be located a great engineering camp—Camp A. A. Humphreys. Its first beginnings were at Belvoir, a little promontory jutting into Gunston Cove, on the opposite shore of which Gunston Hall has stood since before the Revolution. The Belvoir Camp, separated from the larger Humphreys by a distance of a mile and a half, was nestled down at the foot of the hill, and the original Belvoir Hut is one of the most picturesque and beautifully located buildings in the district. It was erected with the assistance of the engineers in camp here and was in operation about the first of September, 1917. A. B. Wegener was the first secretary, beginning service on July 1, 1917. During the trying winter of 1917-18 this hut maintained its service in the face of real difficulties and hardships. Twenty-three miles from Wash-

ington, it could only be reached by a very poor road, which was well nigh impassable a good part of that unusually vigorous winter. A personal tribute should be paid here to Mrs. F. S. Hight, the "Camp Mother" of Belvoir. No weather was too stormy to keep her from her charge down the Potomac and her personal inspiration meant very much to the men of the post during that long bitter winter. Colonel Vanderbilt and the One Hundred and Second Engineers were served in the early days, and later the Fifty-first Engineers. The hut was closed for service in January of 1919, not to be used again except for occasional outings of the war workers of the district.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.—Early in June, 1917, a fourth building in the Washington district had been begun at American University. This building was completed July 18, 1917. This Methodist institution was turned over at the outbreak of the war to the War Department for the training of engineers. The camp was located on the site of one of the forts which defended Washington during the trying days of the Civil War. It is of interest that later on, after the original Y. M. C. A. building was altered in July, 1918, a mound containing 600 cubic yards of dirt—part of the former fortification—was dug away by men of the post detailed for that purpose, to make a proper foundation for the enlarged Y. M. C. A. building.

In no place more than at Camp Leach—as it afterwards was termed—did the public interest center. Here was located the headquarters of the Gas Defense School with the chemical laboratories, and in addition a camp for engineering regiments, containing at one time nearly ten thousand men, sprang up around the main building on the campus.

C. B. A. Bryant, the first secretary there, began work on June 14, 1917, and during the trying days of the fall of 1917 held down a very difficult position and worked with great energy in the face of tremendous hardships caused by lack of proper building facilities. Mr. Bryant was succeeded in July, 1918, by E. R. Simons, who served until the camp closed temporarily about December 20, 1918.

Camp Leach, in these early days, was a point of constant ebb and flow, of extension and contraction, the engineering regiments

passing through on their way to France with increasing rapidity as the need for them on the other side became greater. The men of these regiments were trained foresters, railroad engineers, bridge builders, and the like. Here as well were stationed men of the camouflage division, and in the "Y" hut on October 31, 1917, an entertainment was given by them, at which Secretary Baker and Secretary Daniels were present. During the summer of 1918 Secretary Baker visited this camp more than once. On one special occasion he made an address to the men who were departing overseas, at which time Mrs. Baker sang. Mrs. Baker was a frequent visitor here and often sang on programs in the "Y" building.

Mrs. William Black, wife of General Black—head of the engineers—also was a devoted worker here, as was Mrs. J. L. Edwards, one of the "camp mothers."

Many prominent speakers addressed the men in the open-air auditorium during the summer months and movies were run in this natural amphitheater. With the signing of the armistice Camp Leach naturally dwindled in numbers and the "Y" building was closed in December, 1918, for about six weeks, after which time it was reopened under the direction of Mr. J. H. Y. Davis to minister to the needs of two or three hundred colored soldiers who were placed at the camp for protection of the buildings. The building finally was closed just before the first of June, 1919, and was sold for a nominal sum to the Methodist Church for use as a temporary chapel at the University.

EAST POTOMAC PARK.—Shortly after the declaration of war, a temporary camp was formed at East Potomac Park for the colored troops of the District of Columbia. For some weeks before these men were moved, this camp was served by a colored secretary, R. W. Sherrill. Later in the spring of 1918 barracks were erected for the use of the troops living here, three or four hundred men of the Coast Artillery. This camp has housed men from many branches of the service, among them the Fiftieth Infantry, part of the Coast Artillery, Twenty-second Infantry, Washington Battalion, and the Sixty-third Infantry. The military police of the city, the guards cordoned around the White House and other public buildings during the war, and the anti-

aircraft troops were all quartered in this camp. Although it has never been a large camp, yet the number steadily increased from about 1,000 early in 1918 to nearly 2,000 during the first quarter of 1919. In the month of March, 1918, Y. M. C. A. work was carried on in a room in the medical building. The hut was constructed and opened on April 17, 1918, and has been in continuous use ever since. The following Y. M. C. A. hut secretaries have had general charge of the work at East Potomac Park: W. L. Wessels, E. E. Briggs, John McKelvie, John M. Arters, and Edward R. Foreman. Mr. Briggs was so popular with the men that when he left for France to engage in Y. M. C. A. work, the officers and men of the Fiftieth Infantry, the old command with which he was associated, petitioned to have him remain with them.

In addition to the regular Secretaries, a corps of volunteer women workers was organized by Mrs. John L. Edwards, giving extensive and valuable assistance on the desk, visiting the sick, furnishing entertainment, and helping the men in many ways. Great praise is due Mrs. Edwards and her loyal women for their splendid service. Animated by heart-interest and human sympathy, they gave our work soul, and demonstrated the necessity of women to make Hut management successful. The work up to the time of the armistice was that of the ordinary camp, although special activity during the summers of 1918 and 1919 was given to outdoor athletics. During the summer of 1918, as well, sundown religious services were conducted by Secretary Thomas with great success, 200 frequently having been in attendance.

The educational work up to the time when vocational work began, after the signing of the armistice, was of the usual type, with stress upon English to foreigners and French for officers and enlisted men. Owing to the proximity of this camp to the Department of Agriculture buildings, an interesting agricultural course, known as the "Potomac Park Experiment" was maintained at this camp for a number of months. A special report on this experiment has been submitted by Secretary Foreman and is appended, in part, as follows:

"At East Potomac Park Y. M. C. A. an educational movement has been tried which has proved very successful. At the sug-

gestion of Dr. George W. Hunter, the States Relation Service of the Department of Agriculture has instituted a course on agriculture as a profession, illustrated by educational movies and slides. Under management of Mr. William R. Beattie, extension horticulturist, men of the Agricultural Department were sent to the camp each week for fourteen weeks to discuss the possibilities of agriculture, and all the details of the science which has transformed agriculture in the last decade, putting it upon a sure footing as a profession and demonstrating that no occupation offers greater inducements of health and happiness.

"As a result of the success of this class at East Potomac Park Y. M. C. A., similar classes have been opened at Walter Reed Hospital for wounded overseas men, at Fort Myer, at Washington Barracks, and at Eagle Hut, at Camp Meigs, and at Camp Humphreys.

"The Secretary of Agriculture has established the 'East Potomac Park Experiment' as a definite government program in all the American camps and overseas. Experts of the Agricultural Department have been selected as traveling lecturers to carry on the work in the smaller camps where soldiers are being demobilized, and others have been assigned to carry on the work in the permanent military camps. Four men have been detailed to extend the idea to the soldiers still in the service overseas. These representatives of the Agricultural Department will work in conjunction with the morale officers of the American Army and Navy, and great good is expected to result from this undertaking."

With the slump in morale after the signing of the armistice came increasing responsibilities on the "Y" man. The experiment was tried of having open forum discussions on such subjects as "What is the Best Thing in Life?" "Can a Man be a Soldier and be Happy?" "What is Happiness?" "What is Success?" etc., etc. In these meetings the men expressed their views freely and the mental reactions excited by the discussions were surprisingly good in quality and quantity, and the men were put in better frame of mind for return to civil life.

"The spring of 1919 saw a very excellent athletic program put on in this camp. A separate gymnasium equipped by the Y. M. C. A. was established in one of the barracks and was in constant use as long as the men remained in camp. The baseball team of the Sixty-third Infantry stood high in the local league, with an excellent prospect of winning the pennant, up to the time of their transfer to Madison barracks in June, 1919

After that the hut was kept open for the four companies of the Sixty-Third Infantry left behind during the summer of 1919."

CAMP MEIGS.—At the time of mobilization of the District troops for work on the border, this site, located at Fifth and Florida Avenue, was under the title of "Camp Ordway." Y. M. C. A. work was carried on in a tent and such service rendered as was possible under the circumstances. Later it became a quartermaster camp and was known as Camp Meigs. At this time the work under Kercheval Smith was established in one of the barracks buildings. On March 8, 1918, the present war work building, the only welfare building in the camp, was dedicated. At this time the work was under the charge of B. H. Darrow. Later he was succeeded by John McKelvie, and still later by H. G. Dooley. Unfortunately from certain points of view, the commandant later issued an order closing the building each day until retreat, and this of necessity restricted all activity to a rather brief period of time. Nevertheless, some of the secretaries at Camp Meigs got unusually close to the men. One will never forget "Daddy" Miller and his homelike room with the sign over the door, "Your friend, ask him anything." Nor will he forget the kindly faces and sympathetic help rendered by Millard F. Andrew and George L. Pake, a worthy team of brothers in the service.

In the early winter of 1919 the camp became the home of the Washington Motor Transport Corps and will probably be one of the last camps to be demobilized in the district, although at one time, after the quartermasters left, its demobilization was daily expected. It has the reputation of being one of the most beautiful camps in the district. It is certainly one of the best kept, with its concrete roads, its flower beds, and its wonderful out-of-door swimming pool.

In July 1919 the camp entertained for several days a thousand Czecho-Slovak soldiers returning to their homes from Siberia. These men crowded the hut all day and were very appreciative of the entertainments and movies furnished each night they were in camp. Chocolate, cigarettes and Washington post cards were also given them and every-

thing possible done to make them feel the American people were their friends.

WALTER REED.—Walter Reed Hospital early was recognized as a strategic point by Mr. Cooper, and application was made by him to the War Work Council for a building. It was seen that the work here must of necessity rapidly expand, and that this would be the experiment station of the United States Hospital Corps, because of its proximity to the headquarters of the Surgeon General. Unfortunately, the War Work Council did not see fit to act quickly and the splendid site offered to the Y. M. C. A. was withdrawn by the hospital commandant and was later occupied by the Red Cross administration building.

The first work here after the War Work Council assumed control was carried on by Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Gardner. Mrs. Gardner was a charming personality, sweet and motherly, and appealed so strongly to the men that the little basement room in the main building was crowded from morning until night. Being a mother with a boy in the service, her heart was in her work and she went on her daily rounds carrying fruits, cakes, and books to wounded men; a trail of brightness and good cheer was left behind.

Mr. Gardner was forced by business to be absent much of the time, so his work was ably carried on by Rev. George M. Atkinson of Grace Episcopal Church of Georgetown. Mr. Atkinson although he had almost since the inception of the hospital been a steady visitor here, gave more liberally of his time from the fall of 1917 until May, 1918, when he went overseas in the service of the Y. M. C. A. He established what later became known as the Atkinson orange fund, receiving contributions from thousands of interested people—a fund which supplied the sick men at Walter Reed literally with tons of this delicious fruit. Mr. Atkinson's devotion to his men led him to give them three days a week in the contagious wards. He, together with a Roman Catholic priest, assigned here, worked hand and hand through the dark days when pneumonia and grip were taking off men in greater numbers than did gas and shrapnel later.

Work which the Y. M. C. A. started at Walter Reed, consisting of distribution of fruit, ward visits, automobile trips on several days a week, afterwards was carried on by the Red Cross. Later the working agreement was entered upon by which the Y. M. C. A. restricted its activity primarily to the men of the medical corps.

After the erection of the fine Red Cross building, the Y. M. C. A. had its headquarters in part of it. At this time Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Griggs began their service which continued until the spring of 1919. Meantime a site had been purchased outside of the hospital reservation, and on Christmas day, 1918, with Mr. Griggs as secretary, the new Y. M. C. A. hut was opened. This was of the hospital type, containing a well-equipped gymnasium, social room, and library, with quarters for three secretaries. This hut long since has been outgrown and authorization has been made for a large addition.

Mr. E. R. Simons came to Walter Reed after the closing of Camp Leach. During his secretaryship the Y. M. C. A. program became greatly enlarged, especially in relation to the medical corps men—about eleven hundred in number. A definite educational program was set up, with classes in Spanish, English, stenography and typewriting, and agriculture, this work being carried on directly in co-operation with the post department of reconstruction and re-education. This reconstruction work, which bids fair to be the important work of the future in the hospital, also has taken over the services of one of the recreational and athletic secretaries of the "Y," who is giving his full time to curative work with wounded men; at the same time another recreational secretary was giving his time to the program for the corps men.

One extremely interesting development here has been the placing of moving pictures and illustrated travelogues in the wards for the entertainment and education of bed patients. One educational secretary, Frederick B. Wright, is giving his entire time to this work, and is working in close harmony with the reconstruction division of the post. This work, pioneer in its field, is intended to divert the minds of the men so that they

may be prepared later for educational movies, showing possibilities of reconstruction work, and the place that work would take in their lives.

For the convalescents and corps men entertainments, moving-picture shows, and vaudeville were given two nights a week in the post-exchange theater to large crowds.

WASHINGTON BARRACKS.—This was a regular army post, small detachments of engineers having been on duty here for periods long before the war. The first work, largely of a recreational nature, was carried on in the brick barracks, under the leadership of H. G. Lawton. As the war continued, the parade ground became utilized as a large encampment with some 5,000 to 8,000 engineers, held under canvas prior to being sent overseas. With this development of the post, it became necessary to erect a regular war-work building at the southeastern end of the parade ground some distance from the barracks. This building was dedicated March 24, 1918. Major Lyle, of the British Embassy (who later died during the influenza epidemic), made the dedicatory address, paying a fine tribute to the Association. General Abbott received the building on behalf of the post. Mrs. Newton D. Baker sang and led the company in patriotic songs. During the period of great activity here, Rev. J. H. Boal was on duty as camp secretary. His service to the men led to his being offered the position of camp chaplain, which he refused in order to stay with the Y. M. C. A. After the signing of the armistice the work rapidly dropped off and by early summer of 1919 had returned to its pre-war status.

FORTS WASHINGTON AND HUNT, posts of the regular army, early were places of considerable activity. During the early part of the war an inimical commandant at the fort made it impossible to introduce "Y" service, although this point needed it greatly because of its isolation. On November 8, 1917, however, Secretary Harry G. Green was sent to Fort Washington, where he served faithfully until he left in May, 1918, to enlist in the tank corps. The post was then served until September 30, 1918, by Mr. Clyde F. Howes. During this period groups of men varying from 500 to over 2,000 were served. As no "Y"

building was available at first, a room 20 by 25 in the post exchange building was used. The library was inadequately housed in a still smaller room in the post exchange. Later very pleasant quarters became available in a nearby building.

Fort Hunt, across the river, was also covered from this point by Mr. Green and Mr. Howes, although of necessity the attention given was inadequate. Games, athletic material, writing paper, and the usual literature were made available and were greatly appreciated by the men in these isolated posts.

Fort Foote, which, like Forts Washington and Hunt, was operated as an outpost of Washington Barracks, was a point where a regiment of troops was located during the summer of 1918. This point was served at this time by Mr. John T. Gardner. Work was conducted under canvas at first, the "Y" being ensconced in a big tent. Later a room in one of the older buildings on the grounds was used.

EAGLE HUT.—On August 23, 1917, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia gave authority to the War Work Council to erect a frame building on a plot of land known as Reservation No. 7, at Ninth Street just off Pennsylvania Avenue, this being the only park plot in Washington under the control of the District authorities. A temporary building was erected, which during the early fall of 1917 served thousands of transient soldiers. This temporary building was later floated down the river to Belvoir and became the first "Y" building at Camp Humphreys. Still later it was used for the headquarters staff and finally was turned into a combined garage and storehouse. In the short interval between the moving of the building and the erection of the permanent one in the spring of 1918, a small building—later used at the Edsall Rifle Range—was put up. This building was dedicated on May 3, 1918, and was known as the Pennsylvania Avenue building, C. B. Keferstein then being hut secretary. Later in the summer, with proper exercises, the hut was renamed "Eagle Hut." In the fall of 1918 a wing, containing a splendid library and capacious fireplace, was built, and in the Christmas week of 1918 a library of nine hundred volumes opened there.

One can not mention all the names connected with Eagle Hut's long and useful service, but one or two should be mentioned here. C. H. Harrington, who became hut secretary June 1, 1918, spent over a year at this point. Here Martin Richardson, with his wonderful tenor voice, had his series of Saturday night concerts, and here, too, have served some of the splendid women of the District.

In February, 1919, Mrs. Edward R. Foreman came into the Hut as a secretary, being the only woman secretary in the District. She has successfully taken charge of the educational and social work, giving the home touch that only a woman could give.

Because of its central locality, Eagle Hut was used to head up several outposts, at one time St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Bolling Field, and the Anacostia Naval Station being so operated. This hut has had a peculiar significance to some of the enlisted men detailed to office work in Washington, there having been a steady flow of the same men night after night to the hut. Mrs. E. T. Lawrence (the daughter of Senator Sutherland of Utah), an early social secretary, sent thousands of soldiers to church parties and other social functions from here. For eighty Sunday afternoons one church alone entertained from fifteen to fifty or more men. Almost every Sunday the men have been sent out for dinner at homes of interested Washington folk, and on Thanksgiving days, 1917 and 1918, hundreds were directed to hospitality of Washington friends.

CAMP A. A. HUMPHREYS.—In the early days this camp of engineers was located at Belvoir. On January 8, 1918, work was begun on the main cantonment, known as Camp A. A. Humphreys. This camp lies on a plateau one hundred and eighty feet above the level of the river, occupying an area of several square miles between Accotink Creek on one side and Dogue Creek on the other. The clearing of the pine second-growth, hauling out of stumps, and gradual evolution of a great cantonment proceeded under almost superhuman difficulties at first. In the face of the bitterest winter Virginia ever had known, with the river blocked with ice and the roads impassable, the impossible was accomplished. In the early spring muck took the

place of snow and six mules were required to draw what two would haul under ordinary conditions. During these early days the secretaries shared the hardships of the men—inadequate shelter, poor bedding, poor food. Occasionally they were obliged to rise during the night and tramp around till morning to keep from freezing. A narrow-gauge railway was built from Belvoir to carry supplies for the cantonment and later a standard-gauge road was switched in from the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, which was the first Government built and operated line in the United States. And all through the spring and summer of 1918 Camp Humphreys grew, until, just prior to the armistice, a cantonment capable of housing sixty thousand troops was ready for the call of the last draft.

As the camp grew in size the work of the "Y" increased. At first there was one building at Belvoir, which after being given up as an engineering camp was continued as the camp hospital until that was removed to the new site on the hill, and then was used for the development battalion. The original building was the first of a series of ten, all of which were in operation at the time of the signing of the armistice.

On January 19, W. L. Wessels, who previously had been serving at East Potomac Park, became secretary in charge, serving from the opening of the camp until September 15. During this period Mr. Wessels was a tireless worker and accomplished much in the face of great difficulties. Louis A. Black succeeded Mr. Wessels as secretary in charge. Mr. Black brought to the work a wide experience gained from many years of Association work, followed by eight months' service in England with the American Expeditionary Forces and a term of service in the New York office of the National War Work Council.

Of the program at Camp Humphreys not much need be said. The religious work program, especially before the armistice, was carried on with much vigor both in the huts and by means of a series of Sunday night meetings held in a beautiful outdoor amphitheater. It was the scene of many never-to-be-forgotten meetings. Men from overseas, foreign officers of note, Vice-President Marshall, Secretary Baker, and many other men prominent in public life, have spoken here before audiences of

ten thousand or more men. The "Y" deserves much credit, not only for its part in managing these meetings, but for the splendid service given by John Reynolds, the camp song leader. "John," as he was known affectionately all over the camp, did much to establish morale in these early days.

The history of the camp could not be written without some tribute being paid to the splendid work of the secretaries during the influenza epidemic. While the secretaries were not allowed to serve in the hospital, yet the staff almost to a man did splendid service, working in the barracks with the convalescent men, cheering those who were fearful of taking influenza, and in every case standing by even at cost of contracting the dread disease. A number of secretaries were ill—some dangerously—but providentially none were taken.

At this time arrangements were made in two of the huts to accommodate parents and friends of sick men, who otherwise could not have been near their dear ones.

Mention should also be made of the strong educational program put on under the leadership of R. W. Pence and continued by George T. Hastings, who later—in June, 1919—was called to fill Dr. Hunter's place at headquarters. At this camp the first vocational guidance program worked out in the Y. M. C. A. was put forward within one week after the armistice was signed. A carefully worked out program with a series of lectures on vocational subjects was put on in every hut serving men in this camp.

Among other names that should be mentioned are those of Dr. Robert MacDougall, of New York University, who had charge of the educational work with the development battalion; C. W. Pultz and E. L. Plasket, who conducted splendid work under the most trying circumstances, first at Accotink and later at the Rifle Range; R. W. Sherrill and G. F. Tipton, who worked for the colored soldiers in the tents and temporary building; and George W. Grimm, the "Y" property man, who was in continuous service from February 28, 1918, until the middle of June, 1919, and who helped furnish and dismantle every hut in the cantonment.

LIBERTY HUT.—Since July 3, 1918, Liberty Hut has been the temporary home and recreational center of more than four

hundred thousand soldiers. More than a thousand uniformed men have been fed each day at its canteen, and on many a night in summer and fall of 1918 every one of its fourteen hundred beds have been in use. Liberty Hut, in other words, has been the great Y. M. C. A. hotel for the transient soldier. Its great shadowy bulk—three hundred feet long—looms up across the Union Station plaza, at night the red triangle illuminated by the arc light overhead. In the days of rapid demobilization one secretary always was on duty day and night at the Union Station to direct the soldier from his tiresome railroad journey to the brightness and welcome of the great foyer across the plaza.

One of the interesting facts about this old Billy Sunday Tabernacle has been that it has lent itself so admirably to the work to which Mr. Sunday would have been so glad to see it put. A huge partition was built at the point where the choir was separated from the main auditorium. The choir portion of the building was left with a seating capacity of about thirty-five hundred. A stage was built on one side of the partition and on the other the huge foyer—about fifty by two hundred feet—served the purpose of a living room, pool room, canteen, office, and checking rooms. From this foyer opened doors leading to the large dormitories, baths, wash-rooms, and barber shops.

Liberty Hut has made it a point never to refuse any soldier who was without funds, but a nominal price of 35 cents is charged for the night's lodging, which includes the furnishing of soap and towel for the shower baths, the checking of luggage, etc. Men who do not stop overnight pay 6 cents for the privileges of shower with soap and towels.

To those of us who have been privileged to look in on the foyer on a Saturday night there is no question as to the part played by Liberty Hut in the life of the soldier visiting Washington. At this time the great foyer will be packed with men playing billiards or pool, listening to a concert on the stage at one side or eating and drinking at the canteen. At such a time the force of secretaries—which reached twenty-five during the demobilization period—was augmented by volunteer workers, men and women prominent in Washington affairs. Among these have been such men as the president of the National Rotary Clubs,

the Assistant Secretary of State, and a prominent bank president of Washington, all of whom have felt that this service was worth rendering. At these Saturday evening performances some of the best talent of the Y. M. C. A. and Washington have offered their services—for it became quite the thing for Washingtonians to give their services at Liberty Hut.

In addition to the rooms already mentioned, a writing room seventy feet in length and a library fifty by fifty, filled with comfortable chairs and tables on which stand student lamp electroliers, are much-used portions of the hut. In the library, courses in civics, economics and good citizenship, and a series of illustrated lectures on European geography have been given to groups of men who have found this part of the evening worth while. A library of two thousand books invites the men to this room, which is presided over by the educational and religious secretaries.

Not the least important, so far as the city of Washington is concerned, is the auditorium of Liberty Hut. Probably more well-known speakers have talked from its platform in the short two years of the war than from any other stage in this country. Some of the most important and enthusiastic gatherings connected with the entertainment and welfare of the men of our armies have been held here; here Madam Schumann Heink sang for the men; here Secretary Baker presented the Croix de Guerre to three overseas secretaries; here Sir Arthur Yapp, head of the Y. M. C. A. of England, gave his greeting to the men of this country; here Ambassador Gerard spoke on the occasion of the dedication of the hut.

In matters of national importance, the auditorium has played its part. Pershing's band—that wonderful organization of the American Expeditionary Forces—played here in the interest of the Victory Loan; here Admiral Sims made his maiden speech for that loan; Evangeline Booth spoke here during the drive for the Salvation Army; here the Paulist Fathers' Choir sang for the Catholic Women's War Service Club; here were given, as examples of community enterprises, *The Bohemian Girl* and *Pagliacci*, under the auspices of *The War Camp Community Service*; in this auditorium also there were held ten huge Sunday

afternoon meetings under the auspices of the Billy Sunday Ushers' Association.

BLISS ELECTRICAL SCHOOL.—The Bliss Electrical School at Takoma Park, headed by Professor L. D. Bliss, one of the best friends the Y. M. C. A. has had in Washington, was taken over by the Government in 1918 to train electricians, and in the fall of that year was made one of the S. A. T. C. points. L. D. Thomas was placed in charge of the "Y" work here and served until the unit was demobilized in December.

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—Here at College Park a radio school with about 300 men was established. This point was served as an outpost of Eagle Hut by R. S. Bond. In the fall a branch of the S. A. T. C. was developed. The "Y" work was in charge of Dr. J. F. Fitchen, Jr., who was called from this point to assume the religious work directorship of the Baltimore district. After the S. A. T. C. was demobilized the regular work of the college Y. M. C. A. was resumed.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY.—Here E. E. Thompson served first with the Signal Corps in the spring of 1918 then with the N. C. O. School during the summer and when it was organized with the S. A. T. C. until this work terminated at the end of 1918. Since which time Mr. Thompson has remained at the University as the regular student Y. M. C. A. secretary.

ST. ELIZABETH'S.—On July 17, 1918, the Y. M. C. A. was established at St. Elizabeth's as an outpost of Eagle Hut, with Dr. D. E. Lorenz as secretary. In the early spring of 1919, however, St. Elizabeth's was put off as a separate point. This hospital, although under the control of the Department of the Interior, nevertheless was made a place for the treatment of shell-shocked soldiers and neurasthenics—men whose nerves were worn out by the strain of the overseas rigors. The Y. M. C. A. of necessity at first confined its efforts to the hospital corps men and to some wards containing shell-shocked cases. A room attractively fitted up in one of the hospital buildings became the center of activity. Sunday services and some elaborate programs of an educational and musical nature were put on at weekly intervals in Hitchcock Hall. One of the most

interesting of these was the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, "The Pirates of Penzance," given in October under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. and the War Camp Community Service. Dr. Lorenz was, during part of his stay, assisted by C. R. Duffie. From October 1, 1918, to May 1, 1919, Mr. Duffie had full charge of this work. Other secretaries, M. A. Korff, Nathaniel B. White, and Frederick S. Gleason, assisted here. Opportunities for the "Y" at this point have been very great, but the position of the secretary is a most trying one because of the constant drain on his sympathetic nature. Especial mention should be made of Mr. Korff for the broad, sympathetic work done in the wards with these shell-shocked men.

BOLLING FIELD.—In connection with the St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dr. Lorenz also became visiting secretary at the Bolling aviation field and the Anacostia naval air station. These two aviation fields, close to the eastern branch of the Potomac, have absolutely no communication with each other, as they were separated by a marshy tract, though lying side by side. Hence, considerable time of the secretary must be spent in traveling. The Y. M. C. A. established itself in a good-sized room at the barracks at Bolling Field. A small library was established there through the A. L. A., games and athletic material were furnished, and a weekly service of lectures as well as occasional entertainments.

At Anacostia Field no barracks was at first available and the room which the "Y" used was too small to be of great service, although a library of two or three hundred books was established there and as time went on a large service was rendered in the supply of athletic material and an occasional entertainment. Later the Navy erected a building to be used for recreational purposes. This building, completed about June 1, 1919, was operated by the Navy morale department.

During the latter days service in a small way was given at two other points near Washington. The government opened in 1919 a large proving ground at Machodoc Point, about sixty-five miles down the Potomac. Here the "Y" helped the civilian chaplain through the furnishing of supplies—a piano, literature, stationery, athletic goods, etc. And out about seventy-five miles, at the

isolated Remount Station at Front Royal, a little point up in the mountains of the Shenandoah Valley, the boys were furnished a "Y" moving-picture machine and service and a well-fitted gymnasium.

PART III.

Headquarters Departmental Reports.

RELIGIOUS WORK.—The religious work was the first to be departmentally organized in this district. Dr. Paul R. Hickok, a former Washington pastor, took the leadership on January 16, 1918. During these early days it was easier to put on a religious program whenever it was desired, simply because of the fact that it did not conflict with any other program. As the departments developed, the religious work took its place along with the others and was conducted with due reference to the programs of the other departments. During the last week in July, 1918, Ralph K. Hickok, Paul's brother, was shifted from the religious-work secretaryship at Humphreys, where he already had done service for two months, to be religious-work director of the district. Under his guidance, the work begun by his brother developed into what was perhaps the most outstanding program of any department in the district.

The program of religious services has been more or less the same throughout the whole period. The typical program has been two services on Sunday and a service one night during the week. The Association always has been responsible for all of these except where a chaplain has been found. In such a place the chaplain's regimental service would take the place of the morning service on Sunday. Even here, however, the Y. M. C. A. often was found sharing in the service in some way, and ordinarily the service would be held in the Y. M. C. A. building.

The type of religious message naturally has changed from time to time as the situation of the men has changed. The message of the days before the signing of the armistice was naturally different from that of the days since. Since November 11 the addresses given have commonly had something to help the men who were facing toward home and peace conditions.

They stressed the note of service and sought to help the men to face the future with the desire to make their lives count in some real and unselfish fashion. Occasionally the addresses have emphasized the home church with the idea of helping the men to get back into the work of the church when they returned to their homes.

Speakers ordinarily were secretaries. This district has called upon outside speakers less than most districts or cantonments. Ordinarily the feeling was that the secretaries, who were in the camps and knew the men, were able to render most effective service. In some cases it seemed best for the secretary to serve continuously in his own building; in many other cases there was a good deal of changing about. The characteristic feature of the religious services at Humphreys for a good many months has been the truck load of singers which has gone down each Sunday evening. The same kind of assistance with music has been given in lesser degree to the smaller camps in the district. A word ought to be said about the helpfulness of the ladies of Alexandria and Fredericksburg in this same connection. For many months the Alexandria ladies provided music every week for the D. E. F. building at Humphreys. Pastors and choirs of colored churches in Alexandria have helped greatly with the work for colored soldiers.

Not the least important part of the war work of the religious secretary was the giving out of the literature provided by the religious work department. Some sixty different booklets were available. Great numbers of testaments were also given to the men, especially on the eve of their departure for the front.

Mention should be made of the Bible study work at Quantico. For a long time the aim was to have Bible classes in the barracks, led by marines, the purpose being for the marines to take the groups with them wherever the units were sent, even overseas. As the work progressed, and especially as the men were being shifted more frequently, this ideal became more and more impossible until in more recent times the Bible classes were all conducted in the huts. More recently the plan has been adopted of a "drop-in" Bible class in the hut every evening in the week.

Such classes have been held in both buildings at Quantico with marked success, and also in one or two other buildings in the district. In the building for the colored troops at Humphreys for a long time a whole group of Bible classes were held simultaneously in such a way as to represent the soldier counterpart of a church Sunday school. This was the only place in this district where such a thing has ever been possible.

One interesting feature of the work was the farewell service to outgoing men at Quantico. A typical farewell for an outgoing group was that which marked the leaving of the Thirteenth Regiment in the early fall of 1918. September 9 the men were all gathered, 4,000 in number, in the government gymnasium. The post chaplain and the two regimental chaplains spoke and an impromptu address was given by Colonel (now Brigadier General) Butler, commandant of the regiment, whose influence over the men was of the finest. The following morning about 3 o'clock a communion service was held in the gymnasium, Chaplain Niver officiating, assisted by Y. M. C. A. secretaries and others. At the same hour the Roman Catholic soldiers were having mass, and the Jewish boys were meeting under the direction of a representative of the Jewish Welfare Board. Following the religious service came mess and then all entered the train ready to start for the embarkation point. Secretary and Mrs. Daniels were present at both the farewell service and the morning communion.

Not the least important work done was the encouragement of churchgoing. In all the camps, especially in the earlier days, a close affiliation was made between the camp and the neighboring churches. Many thousands of men have been sent in parties to church services and afterwards entertained at homes of members of the congregation.

L. Peyton Little did a unique piece of work at Quantico in securing personal interviews with the men—his record book assuming the dimensions of an encyclopedia.

Shortly after Dr. Paul R. Hickok came into the district he became the means of tying up men in uniform to the Billy Sunday campaign meetings then in progress at what afterwards became Liberty Hut. As a man made a religious declaration he signed

a card. All cards signed by men in uniform were turned over to the district religious work director of the War Work Council and duplicate cards were made from them. These duplicates were then sent out to the camps where the men were stationed. Secretaries in these camps had personal interviews with the men and noted results upon the back of the cards, which were then returned to district headquarters. Personal letters were written to the pastors, mothers, or wives, as the case might be, telling them of the step taken and asking that they write the men in camp, giving such encouragement as was in their power. After the sinking of the *Tuscania* letters were received from a number of pastors saying that the men regarding whom we had written them were on that ship. Several were lost, but some were among those saved.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.—During the early days of the war it was evident to all that the President and the Secretaries of the War and Navy had determined to make the army and navy of the United States a type of machine that not only was efficient from the standpoint of fighting, but that it also would be safeguarded morally and physically in every way. Very early, too, it became evident through the draft that many of those that made up this machine were unable to perform the duties of the soldier because of lack of previous educational training. Thousands of men were unable to understand orders and thousands more—though understanding the spoken words—could neither read nor write.

The first sporadic attempts at help by the Y. M. C. A. were in the nature of classes headed by interested women or men drawn from outside the Association by the educational or camp secretary and who gave their time willingly to help the soldiers overcome their handicaps. The work in the Washington district at first was of this nature. The program, however, grew rapidly, as the army realized the need, and very soon educational secretaries began to be appointed. By the early months of 1918 a fairly complete program had been worked out in certain of the camps, with classes in English for foreigners, in penmanship and in French. Especially in Quantico Mr. Childs had begun a

splendid piece of educational work, in which hundreds of men began the study of French, for the marines were to be the first to fight. In the early summer of 1918, with the release of college professors from their duties, a number of educational secretaries were doing good work in the larger camps in this district. In July the Princeton conference and the issue by the War Department of Order No. 45 placed a special responsibility on the Y. M. C. A. in the teaching of English to foreigners and illiterates. Development battalions were formed in many of the camps and active co-operation between Y. M. C. A. and Army officials was begun. The keynote of the Princeton conference was to make better fighting men through education. To this end, classes in French—both first-aid French and more advanced French for officers—were started, and special emphasis was given to the teaching of English to foreigners and illiterates. Early in 1918 it became evident that the district educational work had grown to such proportions that an educational director was needed, and George W. Hunter was appointed the latter part of July, 1918.

At this stage of the work a rapid extension in educational personnel took place. By the middle of August the work at Quantico, under the direction of Arthur G. Myers, rapidly was assuming the place of a growing university with courses in English, French, algebra, trigonometry, arithmetic, business methods, history, geography, and geometry. The work at Camp Humphreys under the able direction of George T. Hastings assumed much more co-ordination in its types of work, with special emphasis on French and English. A development battalion was organized at Belvoir and several hundred men were started on an English-learning program.

Educational work in all the camp received a tremendous blow with the outbreak of influenza, which caused all gatherings to be given up because of quarantine, and which pretty effectively put a damper on class work as well as educational lectures.

Just as work was beginning to take its former stride came the armistice, and with it an immediate about-face in the educational program. Instead of preparing men to fight overseas the program must prepare men to come back into civil life. As a result a carefully worked out program on vocational guidance

was started within a week after the armistice was signed. This represents a second phase in the history of educational work in the camps in this district. During November and December vocational guidance programs were put on in all camps, together with some class work and a good deal of individual conference work. Shortly after the armistice the Morale Department of the army was formed and with it came a demand for increased responsibility by the Y. M. C. A. This morale work took the form of short talks by hut secretaries, suggesting co-operation from enlisted men, morale posters and booklets, and a series of lectures or informal talks by prominent educationalists and divines. An example of such a series were the "After Victory, What?" talks so successfully given by Major Robert Watson, of New York City.

Class work except at Quantico now became increasingly difficult and a new phase of the work was entered upon in the early spring of 1919 with the introduction of courses of illustrated lectures on "The League of Nations" and on the geography of countries represented at the peace table. A drive was made on the League of Nations in connection with good citizenship with the idea of preparing men going back into civil life for their responsibilities as citizens. A more unified program directed toward this end was the result in the district during the early spring months.

Perhaps the most interesting development of the latter part of the work was the co-operation offered by the Y. M. C. A. educational staff in the hospitals. Not only were schools established for corps men in Walter Reed and Saint Elizabeth's, but a very interesting development in the wards took place, in which educational movies and illustrated lectures were given to men who were unable to leave the wards. These were given largely at Walter Reed in the form of travelogues by F. B. Wright, educational secretary there.

Another extremely interesting feature of the work was the establishment, as a direct result of the educational program, of the series of courses in agriculture given under the auspices of the States Relation Service of the Department of Agriculture previously described. At Quantico courses in agriculture were

given by Dr. T. F. Dixon—one of the secretaries—with the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture.

While it is difficult to measure accurately the value of educational work, yet it is safe to say that before the armistice a very great part was played in preparing men for more efficient work in the army through the English work with foreigners. This district, however, had very few illiterates. After the armistice educational work undoubtedly did much to steady the morale of the men and has helped them in using their time to good advantage while waiting for discharge. Many new vistas have been opened through the educational talks and conferences. In particular, men have learned the value of reading. Several series of booklets have been prepared and circulated both by the New York office and by the Washington office, and valuable aid has been rendered by such organizations as the International Conciliation Society, the American Defense Society, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and others, with lectures and free reading matter.

Finally, the educational department undoubtedly has rendered great service as a means of putting before the men the value of their War Risk Insurance, the function of the United States Employment Service, and other official aids for their welfare. Perhaps the greatest help of all has been through the influence of educational secretaries in their personal contact with the men of the camps. Work of this sort can not be evaluated in terms of statistics and it is work of this sort that has counted the most in the contact of the Y. M. C. A. secretary with the soldier.

RECREATIONAL WORK.—It is a well-known pedagogical fact that self-activity is the strongest means of retaining the interest of children. Soldiers are merely big boys, and after the slump in morale, caused by the end of the actual fighting, the building of morale by means of self-activity became a definite part of the recreational program. The development of this work unfortunately has been handicapped in this district by lack of proper personnel. Some camps were totally lacking in trained athletic leaders, and so the program suffered. Wherever such men have been part of the war work staff, there a noticeable change has been seen in the morale of the men.

In the early spring and summer of 1918 very considerable expenditure was well made for the purchase of supplies for base ball and volley ball, and this part of the recreational program certainly deserves commendation.

Owing to the fact that his previous training fitted him for this work, G. W. Hunter, educational director, took charge of the social hygiene program of the district. Working in close co-operation with the War Department, a program was approved by the Surgeon-General's office and put on in the district, beginning October 1, 1918, consisting of:

A. Monthly talks on the family, the laws of heredity, personal cleanliness, the religious appeal for clean living, etc.

B. Small group conferences in which the chief points of lecture were discussed.

C. Individual meetings with the men interested enough to discuss certain phases of the subject.

D. Class study of short courses, with books as guides.

E. Consistent co-operation with the Army and Navy with reference to use of exhibits, moving pictures, and other means of putting over material.

F. Additional exhibits and pamphlets from Y. M. C. A. sources.

For help in carrying out this program, thanks are due to George H. Ashley of the Department of the Interior, E. L. Van Buskirk of the Public Health Service, and Lieutenant Folke, all of whom have given liberally of their time and personality.

At Quantico an excellent program of recreational activities was carried on under the direction of F. E. McLean during the winter of 1918 and the first half of 1919. On June 20, 1919, Mr. McLean was succeeded by M. W. Younger, who ably continued this work. In addition to the exercises and sports promoted in the gymnasium and on the athletic grounds, frequent stunt nights were given under the direction of the recreational leader in the Y. M. C. A. huts.

The condition at Camp Humphreys for several months was not as favorable as could be desired for a strong recreational program, but early in 1919 larger opportunities were afforded to

the director, W. R. Magee, and since that time the base ball games, and the formal and informal exercises have been largely guided by the Y. M. C. A. representative.

At Potomac Park the commanding officer gave an address to his men on the occasion of the opening of a special barracks building which had been turned over to the Y. M. C. A. and equipped as a gymnasium. The importance of systematic exercise was urged by the colonel in charge and the men were regularly delegated for instruction under the direction of E. M. Wilson, the Y. M. C. A. physical director.

One of the most important fields in the Washington district is Walter Reed Hospital, where the Association has two recreational directors. One, E. L. Burwell, gives his entire time to the reconstruction work with the patients in direct co-operation with the surgeons who advise regarding the most helpful exercises under the particular condition of the wounded men. Another director, E. M. Wilson, gives most of his time to the male nurses and corps men both in the gymnasium and on the athletic field. Both men at regular hours give instructions in swimming in the large swimming pool recently opened.

In most of the camps in the Washington district the Y. M. C. A. huts have been equipped with horizontal bars, climbing ropes, basket-ball goals, punching-bag outfits, darts, ring-toss boards, and home-made apparatus for the promotion of various sports. At several of the camps tennis courts have been constructed. Competitive base-ball games and basket-ball games have been held occasionally and elaborate schedules have been arranged to settle championships, but these have usually been interfered with by the movements of the military units.

The Washington district has stood well in the district and cantonment reports of the eastern department, considering conditions under which work has been done. The record for one month showed a total of 39,095 participants and 41,640 spectators at the various games.

SOCIAL WORK.—After all, the hut is the center of social work in the life of the soldier. This work has best been done through the human contact of the social secretary and through

the ability to organize men in group games and to get the social spirit organized. But, in addition to this, outside events for the visitor to Washington was an important part of the social program. Many of these events have been held in Liberty Hut, while the churches and other welfare organizations in Washington have done their share.

When entertainment work first started great aid was given by the Excelsior Dramatic Club, under the management of Fred C. Parker. This group of some forty people was organized to entertain soldiers and gave programs in practically all of the camps in the district. The War Camp Community Service cooperated splendidly, furnishing talent for the camps. This they have continued from the time they organized until the very end of the work in the camps.

The holiday celebrations in all the camps have been given in connection with the Red Cross and other welfare agencies. Entertainment programs of special character, elaborate decorations, and refreshments were provided at every unit and the attendance was record breaking.

On December 25, Christmas afternoon, through the courtesy of a Washington friend of the Y. M. C. A., Keith's theater was secured and tickets for the entire house were distributed, on a careful allotment basis according to the number of men in camp, to all the units in the Washington district. On this occasion Secretary Baker gave an inspiring address to the soldiers, sailors, and marines crowding the theater. This was the second Christmas entertainment of this sort given in the district.

In addition to these events, which have stood out for the general good of the soldier, entertainment programs under the able direction of Dr. D. E. Yarnell have been put on at all points in the district. At every hut three or four evenings a week some form of entertainment has been provided from the Washington headquarters office. Two of these entertainments were usually movies, one entertainment program often given by the splendid women volunteers of the district, and one stunt night provided from local talent in the camps comprised a general program. Many harrowing stories could be told of the diffi-

culties of transportation in those early days, especially where truck-loads of entertainers were marooned for hours owing to the condition of the roads or the breaking down of the automobile. One of the chief difficulties of the district was the number of outlying posts to be provided with entertainments. Camp Humphreys in the early spring and summer days of 1918 was only reached by a road full of ruts and quagmires. Early traffic with heavy trucks had utterly destroyed the road beds, and yet, in spite of these difficulties, the volunteer entertainment service continued with scarcely a disappointment to the men in the camps all through the winter and early spring months.

Great credit should be given to the song leaders of the district—particularly Henri P. Beaugard, John Reynolds, and Martin Richardson. H. P. Beaugard as district song leader did fine work; “John” put Humphreys on the map as a song-singing camp, and was loaned on many occasions to other districts. Martin Richardson’s wonderful tenor was a much-sought-for feature on the district programs and he was well known in many community enterprises throughout the city of Washington and elsewhere in the district. Tom Shumate, first at Humphreys and then at headquarters, did much toward obtaining the services of men and women in the vaudeville circles. Many more names might be mentioned, but space can not be given at this time. In addition to serving the district, the talent of Washington, so ably marshalled by the district force, have been made use of through the activities section of the southern department for service in Camp Meade, Camp Lee, and units of the Tidewater district. Some of these entertainers from Washington were also sent overseas to cheer the men “over there.”

Before the demobilization began the entertainment program had reached a large volume, frequently crowding the schedule so that in many of the huts more than one program was given on the same night. As many as 65 free motion-picture exhibitions were given in the district in one week.

MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED WITH THE Y. M. C. A. IN THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT

(Key: A—American University; B—Bliss Electrical School; E—Eagle Hut; P—East Potomac Park; FW—Forts Washington and Hunt; FM—Fort Myer; H—Humphreys; HU—Howard University; Hq—Headquarters; A—Camp Leach; L—Liberty Hut; MS—Maryland State College; M—Camp Meigs; Q—Quantico; S—St. Elizabeth's Hospital; R—Walter Reed Hospital; W—Washington Barracks.)

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 Bird, Mrs. William T.—R—1746 Lamont St., Washington, D. C.
 Bone, Mrs. R. W.—Hq—Kensington, Md.
 Clabaugh, Mrs. William—Hq—3014 Dent Place, Washington, D. C.
 Clime, Mrs. W. S.—H—1440 Rhode Island Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C.
 Cooper, Miss Margerite—Hq—52 Oakwood Ave., Troy, N. Y.
 Darlington, Miss Ann—P—1610 Twentieth St., Washington, D. C.
 Edwards, Mrs. John L.—A, P—1918 F St., Washington, D. C.
 Folsom, Miss Genevieve—Hq—903 G St. N. E., Washington, D. C.
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 Hardy, Miss Marion S.—Hq—1538 A St. N. E., Washington, D. C.
 Hight, Mrs. F. S.—H—The New Willard, Washington, D. C.
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 Allen, Sinclair T.—FM, Hq—Proctor, Vermont.
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 Andrew, Millard F.—M—Clarksville, Ohio.
 Antel, Harry C.—H, M—Hundred, W. Va.
 Armstrong, George A.—H—Cohoes, N. Y.
 Arters, John M.—M, P—188 E. Promenard, Portland, Me
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